

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An encoding apparatus for packetizing variable-length encoding data by a packet format in which a header of a packet has an area indicating the length of the packet and the range of values indicating the packet length is limited, comprising:

input means for inputting variable-length encoding data;

detection means for detecting the data length of the variable-length encoding data; and

packetizing means for packetizing the variable-length encoding data according to the output of said detection means such that the packet length is set within the maximum value which can be specified in the header.

2. An encoding apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said packetizing means generates a PES packet corresponding to data conforming to an MPEG system from the variable-length encoding data.

3. An encoding apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising second packetizing means for applying second packetization to packet data packetized by said packetizing means, by a predetermined data length.

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4. An encoding apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein a packet generated by said second packetizing means is a TS packet.

5. An encoding apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising pickup means for capturing an image of an object and for generating image data; and

encoding means for applying variable-length encoding to the image data.

6. An encoding apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising recording means for recording the variable-length encoding data packetized by said packetizing means into a recording medium.

7. An encoding method for packetizing variable-length encoding data by a packet format in which a header of a packet has an area indicating the length of the packet and the range of values indicating the packet length is limited, comprising the steps of:

inputting variable-length encoding data;

detecting the data length of the variable-length encoding data; and

packetizing the variable-length encoding data according

B1 to the output of a detection such that the packet length is set within the maximum value which can be specified in the header.

Sub 8. A recording medium which can be read by a computer and which records a program for packetizing variable-length encoding data by a packet format in which a header of a packet has an area indicating the length of the packet and the range of values indicating the packet length is limited, the program comprising:

input processing for inputting variable-length encoding data;

detection processing for detecting the data length of the variable-length encoding data; and

packetizing processing for packetizing the variable-length encoding data according to the output of a detection such that the packet length is set within the maximum value which can be specified in the header.